

Written Testimony concerning funding for implementation of Early Voting

February 15, 2023

Dear Co-Chair Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative Nuccio and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of fully funding the development and implementation of Early Voting here in Connecticut.

Since the Governor's proposed budget does not include funding to support this mandate, we rely on you, our elected officials in the General Assembly, to do the right thing and insist that the State enable its 169 towns and municipalities to respond to the will of the people.

Voters here in Connecticut approved the ballot referendum this past fall. We now expect the Legislature to respond in kind by providing enough funding to develop and implement a robust Early Voting Program. Failure to do so would only contribute to a sense of apathy and cynicism.

It's crucial for each one of us to believe that our government listens and responds to our lawfully expressed wishes, especially when we ask that voting be as open and accessible as possible.

Although I'm fortunate enough to have the time and flexibility to vote in-person on the one day set aside each calendar year to do so, I know that many people for a variety of valid reasons are not. ***I also believe that it's in my own best interest and that of my state and country that others have an equal opportunity to do so.***

My family and I believe so strongly in the importance of Early Voting that we placed a lawn sign in our yard for the first time ever; we usually prefer to express our beliefs and interests through other means. But this issue was too important and so we proudly placed our sign of support in the most visible spot on our lawn, even driving and walking by to check that it was as readable as possible from all angles. I am not kidding.

Please uphold our faith in the General Assembly by fully funding the development and implementation of Early Voting.

Sincerely,

Alison V. Scherer
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